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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Koichi MASUDA *et al.*  
Title: TISSUE ENGINEERED CARTILAGE  
FOR DRUG DISCOVERY  
Appl. No.: 10/054,710  
Filing Date: 01/22/2002  
Examiner: Ruth A. Davis  
Art Unit: 1645

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date below.  Robert N. Young (Printed Name)   (Signature)  August 5, 2003 (Date of Deposit)
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**RECEIVED**

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**

AUG 12 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the non-final Office Action dated May 5, 2003, concerning the above-referenced patent application. The three-month shortened statutory period for response to the Office Action is set to expire on August 5, 2003. Accordingly, applicants believe that this response is timely filed. No fee is believed to be due for this filing. Should any fee be due, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge such fees to deposit account No. 50-2350. Additionally, should any extensions of time be needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. For the purpose of charging said deposit account, duplicates of pages 1 and the signature page of this response are submitted herewith.

**Listing of the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this document.